

# **All Hands HERALD**

January 2009

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES • STOW, MASSACHUSETTS

**Keep  
WARM**



**Keep  
SAFE**

***HAZMAT***

***CPSC RECALLS***

***PUBLIC EDUCATION***

***FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT***

***CODE COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT***

***MASSACHUSETTS FIREFIGHTING ACADEMY***

# FEATURED ARTICLES

<b>From the Fire Marshal.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Governor Patrick Presents 19 <sup>th</sup> Annual <i>Firefighter of the Year</i> Awards.....	1
DFS Launches <i>Keep Warm, Keep Safe</i> Campaign .....	2
<b>HazMat.....</b>	<b>3</b>
The CHEMPACK Program: Nerve Agent Antidotes Available for Use by First Responders in the Field.....	3
<b>Fire Investigation Unit.....</b>	<b>4</b>
Fire and Police Graduate Advanced Fire Investigation Course.....	5
New Facility Construction Moves Forward .....	7
<b>Public Education .....</b>	<b>8</b>
U.S. Fire Administration Seeks a Safer “Home Fire Season” Fatal Home Fires Jumped Nearly 68% during Cooler Months .....	9
14th Annual MA Fire & Life Safety Education Conference in Taunton....	8
<b>Massachusetts Firefighting Academy .....</b>	<b>10</b>
Massachusetts Fire Training Council Receives Reaccreditation from the Pro Board .....	10
Statewide Rapid Intervention Team Train-the-Trainer .....	10
Train the Trainer Fire Based Dispatchers.....	10
MFA HazMat Training Group .....	11
Performance Recognition Program Award Recipients .....	12
<b>Code Compliance &amp; Enforcement.....</b>	<b>13</b>
Ruling on Sprinklerfitter License Requirements .....	13
Chemical Process Safety Management .....	15
Brandon School Student & Natick Fire Dept: Taking Lighters Out of Kids’ Hands .....	15
<b>Plans Review Desk.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>MFIRS Corner.....</b>	<b>17</b>
Consequences for Illegal Use of Fireworks.....	18
<b>CPSC.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Licensing Exams .....</b>	<b>21</b>
2009 License Examination Schedule .....	21
Status Report of Compliance and Enforcement Actions.....	21
<b>Graduations .....</b>	<b>22</b>
Recruit Firefighters Graduate State Firefighting Academy .....	22
40 Fire Officers Graduate Management Training Program .....	22

## About the *All Hands Herald*

**T**he *All Hands Herald* is published quarterly by the Department of Fire Services in January, April, July and October. The newsletter is meant to incorporate the traditional fire service meaning- all hands working to extinguish the fire. In the case of our newsletter, all hands includes the DFS staff providing each of you with information, training and assistance in dealing with the fire service issues which confront all levels of the fire service.

We hope that you enjoy our new look and feel and we encourage you to let us know how you like the *All Hands Herald* and what we can do to make it even more useful to you – our dedicated fire service members and customers. If you have suggestions, ideas, questions or want to make a contribution to the *All Hands Herald*, contact Jennifer Mieth 978-567-3381, [Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us](mailto:Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us) or Donna Nelson 978-567-3149 [Donna.Nelson@state.ma.us](mailto:Donna.Nelson@state.ma.us)

Judy O’Brien is the keen-eyed copy editor; and Jeff Harris is the graphic artist who pulls it all together. ♦

### DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES

PO Box 1025  
State Road, Stow, MA  
01775

[www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs)  
978.567.3100







Photo by: Barry Hyvarinen

**A**s the worst of winter approaches, the Department of Fire Services (DFS) has launched its statewide *Keep Warm, Keep Safe* campaign to help educate people on how to keep safe while keeping warm this winter. Last summer, when the planning for this campaign began, gasoline prices skyrocketed to nearly \$4 a gallon and home heating oil prices were about the same. Even though energy costs have come way down since the dog days of August, the recession is hitting Massachusetts and people are making difficult choices between food, medicine and heat.

Heating has long been the second leading cause of residential fires and as the economic situation worsens and everyone tightens their belts, the risk of fires from heating increases. The fire service is concerned that preventive maintenance like having the chimney cleaned or the furnace checked out by a professional might be deferred, or that people will turn to alternative heating sources such as electric space heaters, wood or pellet stoves, or worse, illegal unvented kerosene heaters. Education on how to use these heating alternatives safely is important.

DFS formed a Winter Fire Safety Coalition whose membership involved state agencies, community groups and private companies. The coalition helped DFS to craft appropriate safety messages, information on how to get help with heating costs, and to develop the entire *Keep*

## All Hands HERALD

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES • STOW, MASSACHUSETTS

*Warm, Keep Safe* campaign. To support local education efforts, there will be public service announcements (PSAs) on television, radio (in English, Spanish and Portuguese) and public transportation. Toolkits have been sent to every fire department and many community partners, as well as posted on the DFS website ([www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs)). I hope we can make a difference and prevent fires, injuries and deaths from heating fires.

### Firefighter of the Year

In early December, DFS participated in the 19th annual Firefighter of the Year awards ceremony. Governor Deval L. Patrick and Undersecretary of Public Safety and Security Kurt Schwartz honored Massachusetts' firefighters for heroic acts of bravery.

The ceremony was attended by over 500 firefighters, their families, friends, supporters and several people rescued by firefighters.

"Having the opportunity to say thank you to Massachusetts' firefighters on behalf of the citizens of the Commonwealth, whom they serve with such dedication every day of the year, is a great honor for me," said Governor Patrick.

### Smoke Alarms

In January, the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations will hold a public hearing and a final vote, which will be the last step in finalizing new smoke alarm regulations. These regulations will in essence require combination or two types of smoke alarms, photoelectric and ionization, in areas 20 feet away from kitchens and bathrooms. There will be no change in the requirement for photoelectric smoke alarms within 20

## GOVERNOR PATRICK PRESENTS 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Firefighter of the Year Awards

Deval L. Patrick and Undersecretary of Public Safety and Security Kurt Schwartz honored Massachusetts' firefighters for heroic acts of bravery during the 19th annual "Firefighter of the Year" Awards ceremony at historic Faneuil Hall on December 3, 2008.



Photo by: Governor's Photographer

"I am honored to be able to express my gratitude to these brave individuals and to their families," said Governor Patrick. "Your exceptional service is in keeping with the proud traditions of your profession."

Governor Patrick and Undersecretary Schwartz presented 23 awards: two Medals of Honor to the families of fallen Boston firefighters; seven

# DFS Launches *Keep Warm, Keep Safe* Campaign

This past summer, when the rising cost of heating fuels was at its peak, State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan organized a Winter Fire Safety Coalition of state agencies and private organizations to address the potential increase in residential fires during the upcoming winter. Out of these meetings, the **Keep Warm, Keep Safe** campaign was launched this past fall to raise awareness of winter fire risks. The target audience for this campaign is the general public, especially those on fixed incomes, who may turn to alternative heating sources, such as space heaters, pellet stoves, or fireplaces more often during tough economic times.

"The winter months are the leading months for home fires and we need

tips in seven languages (English, Chinese/Mandarin, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese). The complete tool kit is also available on line at [www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeepsafe](http://www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeepsafe).

The campaign will also include radio, transit and web-based public service announcements. Check the [www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeepsafe](http://www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeepsafe) website for additional information on the completion of these ads and when these will be available for use by local fire departments. In addition, several retailers have pledged to display educational flyers near space heaters, carbon monoxide alarms and pellet stoves.

Participants on the Winter Heating Fire Safety Coalition include: Action

For more information on winter heating and fire safety and the Keep Warm, Keep Safe Campaign, visit [www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeepsafe](http://www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeepsafe). If you have further questions, suggestions or opinions about the campaign, then please contact the Department of Fire Services' Executive Office at 617-567-3100. ♦

## From the Fire Marshal

*Continued from Page 1*

feet of kitchens or bathrooms. The Board of Building Regulations and Standards is preparing to modify the State Building Code to be consistent with this change in the fire code.

## Fire Service Grants

During these difficult economic times, every state agency has been asked to make serious budget cuts and DFS is no different. While making those difficult decisions, the Administration had the wisdom to continue to fund the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grants that allow local communities to stretch their own dollars a little further at a time when local budgets are strained, as well as the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program grants. Every new generation of children needs fire safety education, and every fire prevented stretches local budgets a little further.

## Construction Progress

As I look out my window, I am able to observe the amazing progress being made day by day on the DFS construction project. One building is nearly completed, one is well underway and the foundation for the third is ready. Since the new parking lot has opened, the parking crunch has been eased somewhat. There will be significant changes to the landscape of the Stow campus in the coming year. ♦

- Stephen D. Coan  
State Fire Marshal



***"Heating is the second leading cause of fires in the home in Massachusetts. One in ten space heater fires cause a death. Last year, there were 19 fires, three civilian deaths, two civilian injuries and seven fire service injuries attributed to space heater fires statewide."***

to take extra care to protect our families and loved ones," said State Fire Marshal Coan. "It is important to prepare now to keep warm and keep safe this winter."

The **Keep Warm, Keep Safe** campaign includes a grassroots outreach effort led by local fire departments. A **Keep Warm, Keep Safe Tool Kit** was mailed to all local fire departments at the end of November. This tool kit includes talking points, a generic PowerPoint® presentation for community trainings, sample press releases, logos and winter fire safety

for Boston Community Development (ABCD); MA Office of Elder Affairs; Department of Housing and Community Development; Department of Public Health; Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts; Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts; local fire departments; MA Energy Director's Association; Massachusetts Association of Community Action Programs; Massachusetts Corps of Fire Chaplains; Massachusetts Oilheat Council; Salvation Army; Shriners Hospital; State Attorney General's Office; the property insurance industry; utility companies; and several retailers.



THE CHEMPACK PROGRAM:

## Nerve Agent Antidotes Available for Use by First Responders in the Field

by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Emergency Preparedness Bureau

**F**irst responders play an integral role in the response to a nerve agent incident. Nerve agents can be classified as chemical warfare agents (e.g., Sarin, Tabun, Soman, Cyclosarin, and VX) and organophosphate pesticides (e.g., Parathion, Malathion, Chlorpyrifos, and Diazinon). Although chemical warfare agents tend to be faster acting and more potent, both types of nerve agents pose a lethal threat to those exposed to the substance. The acronym "SLUDGEMM" can be used to recognize signs and symptoms of a nerve agent. Someone who has been exposed to a chemical such as an organophosphate will likely exhibit several of the following symptoms: salivation; lacrimation, or tearing; involuntary urination or defecation; gastrointestinal upset; emesis, or vomiting; muscle twitching; and miosis, or pinpoint pupils. Depending on the amount of nerve agent the patient is exposed to, there are varying degrees of severity for these symptoms.



There are several nerve agent antidotes, drugs that, if administered soon enough, can reverse the effects and alleviate the symptoms of nerve agent exposure. The three commonly used antidotes include atropine sulfate, pralidoxime (also referred to as "2PAM"), and diazepam. In Massachusetts, the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) has placed 40 CHEMPACK containers at hospitals across the state. Within the CHEMPACK, there are pre-filled autoinjectors, or Mark-1 Kits that are intended for administration of antidotes in the field, and multi-use vials for precision dosing of antidotes in hospitals. Each container is capable of treating from 450-1,000 patients, depending on the configuration of the container and the severity of the symptoms.

The role of firefighters and emergency medical personnel during the response includes the following actions:

### Recognize signs and symptoms of nerve agent exposure;

- Notify dispatch of mass casualty incident (MCI) and/or suspected nerve agent incident;
- Activate incident command system (ICS);
- Don appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE);
- Establish staging area;
- Establish decontamination area;
- Take custody of CHEMPACK assets when they arrive on scene;
- Triage and treat patients with CHEMPACK assets; and
- Transport patients to nearby hospitals.

### The role of fire and emergency medical dispatch personnel during the response includes the following actions:

- Notify command staff;
- Commit additional resources

(HazMat teams, additional personnel/vehicles);

- Notify Coordinated Medical Emergency Direction (CMED) immediately;

### The role of CMED:

- Activate CHEMPACK program at hospitals;
- Arrange for the transport of CHEMPACK assets to incident staging area;
- Coordinate movement of casualties to receiving hospitals;
- Timely recognition, treatment, and transport of patients exposed to nerve agents can lead to better outcomes. From activating ICS to decontamination of patients, firefighters are the key to successful management of such an event.

Please see the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services *Emergency Medical Services Pre-Hospital Treatment Protocols*, section 2.6, available at: <http://www.mass.gov/dph/oems> for more information on the nerve agent protocols and Mark-1 kit.

Any additional questions can be directed to [dph-SNSinfo@state.ma.us](mailto:dph-SNSinfo@state.ma.us) or (617) 994-9828. For more information on the Strategic National Stockpile, please visit us at [MDPH Strategic National Stockpile](#). ♦



# FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT

BEDDING TOO CLOSE TO BASEBOARD HEATER CAUSE OF

## Palmer Fatal Fire

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Palmer Fire Chief Alan J. Roy said the most probable cause of the November 13, 2008 fatal fire at 25-31 Commercial Street was combustibles coming in contact with the electric baseboard heater. The fire tragically took the life of a woman who lived at 29 Commercial Street in the early morning hours. All other residents of the 4-unit apartment building escaped to safety.

The fire was jointly investigated by the Palmer Fire Department, Palmer Police Department and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. State Police assigned to the Hampden District Attorney's Office and Code Compliance Officers from the Office of the State Fire Marshal also assisted. ♦

SMOKING ON HOME OXYGEN CAUSES

## Hadley Fatal Fire

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Hadley Fire Chief James E. Kicza said the investigation into the November 23, 2008 fatal fire at 208 Russell Street in Hadley has found the most probable cause of the fire was smoking while using home oxygen. Northwestern District Attorney Elizabeth Scheibel's office confirmed the name of the fire victim was Susan M. Nevin, a 54-year old woman, who was in Room 114 of the Norwottuck Inn.

Marshal Coan said, "Smoking on home oxygen is not a private matter but a serious threat to public safety. Oxygen will soak into furniture, clothes, bedding, facial hair and other materials, making them catch fire more easily." He added, "Since 1997, there have been 22 deaths and over 33 serious injuries in Massachusetts from fires and burns started by smoking while home oxygen was in use."

Chief Kicza said, "While our deepest sympathies go to the family of the fire victim, we are lucky that no one else at the Norwottuck Inn and no firefighters were injured." He added, "Fighting fires in oxygen-enriched environments puts our firefighters at risk. The oxygen will allow the fire to spread more quickly. It lowers the temperature at which things catch fire including our protective gear."

The fire was jointly investigated by the Hadley Fire Department, the Hadley Police Department and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. State Police assigned to Northwestern District Attorney Elizabeth Scheibel's Office also assisted. ♦

THREE INJURED IN

## Randolph Arson

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Randolph Fire Chief Charles D. Foley Jr. said their joint investigation into the November 24, 2008 fire at 27-29 Reed Street in Randolph has determined it was intentionally set. The fire critically injured a man. A woman and child were less seriously injured in the fire as well.

The fire was jointly investigated by the Randolph Fire Department, the Randolph Police Department, State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal and State Police assigned to the Norfolk District Attorney's Office.

While the investigation is continuing, investigators believe this fire may have been another case of domestic violence.

Coan said, "In 2007, there were three fatal fires that caused six deaths that were acts of domestic violence. There were many other fires that had less fatal consequences where fire was the domestic violence weapon of choice."

Chief Foley said, "This fire is a tragedy for the family and for the community as well." ♦

## Lawrence Fatal Fire Electrical

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Lawrence Fire Chief Peter C. Takvorian announced preliminary findings of their joint investigation into the November 3, 2008 fatal fire at 15 Leeds Terrace which have determined the fire was electrical in nature. The fire took the life of a woman and a young adult man.

Investigators believe the fire was an

electrical event in the kitchen, either a baseboard heater or a power strip in the same point of origin may have malfunctioned.

The fire was jointly investigated by the Lawrence Fire Department, the Lawrence Police Department, State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Essex District Attorney's Office. ♦



Photo by: Massachusetts State Police



## Advanced Fire Investigation Course

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Director Edmund Walker announced the graduation of 38 members of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's six-day *Advanced Fire Investigation* course on Friday, October 31, 2008. This rigorous professional training provides fire, state, and local police officers with the advanced skills to accurately determine the origin and cause of fires in their jurisdictions and together, build solid, prosecutable cases. The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, a division of the Department of Fire Services, offers this program tuition-free.

### Team Concept of Fire Investigation

State Fire Marshal Coan said, "The team concept of fire investigation has been used successfully in Massachusetts for over a decade and it starts with joint training." He added, "When police and fire are trained in the same techniques and procedures together, the consistency leads to solid cause and origin determinations, and when arson is the cause, solid criminal cases."

Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Director Edmund M. Walker said, "This course provides students with fire scene experience from investigation through courtroom testimony. They are exposed to the investigatory process as outlined in the National Fire Protection Association Standard 921: Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations."

### 38 Graduates

The 38 graduates, including eight local police officers, one federal officer and 29 fire-fighters, represent the following agencies: Acushnet Fire/Rescue Department, Boston Fire Department, Canton Fire Department, Duxbury Fire Department, Hanson Fire Department, Haverhill Fire Department, Hingham Fire Department, Lawrence Fire Department, Lynn Fire Department, Methuen Fire Department, Middle-

boro Fire Department, Middleton Fire Department, Needham Fire Department, Newton Fire Department, North Reading Fire Department, Norwood Fire Department, Plainville Fire Department, Shrewsbury Fire Department, Springfield Fire Department, Stoughton Fire Department, West Newbury Fire Department, Westford Fire Department, Westwood Fire Department, Worcester Fire Department, Acushnet Police Department, Danvers Police Department, Framingham Police Department, Medford Fire Department, Northampton Police Department, Stoughton Police Department, Taunton Police Department, and the and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

The six-day advanced fire investigation course covers the concepts of fire behavior, scene examination, fire scene documentation, evidence collection, witness interviewing, and management of major fire investigations in more depth than the basic fire investigation class. It also addresses the legal issues of managing fire scenes, evidence collection, and concludes with practical exercises of participating in the courtroom process. Students give mock depositions and participate in both a mock grand jury and a mock trial. The program covers unintentional fires, intentionally set fires, automobile fires, fatal fires and wildland fires.

### Origin and Cause Determination

Fire investigators work to first determine the point of origin of the fire and then its cause. Once they are able to determine the point of origin, they often rely on witness statements to identify the possible sources of ignition at that point and then work to eliminate each possible ignition source, one by one, until they are left with only one most probable cause.

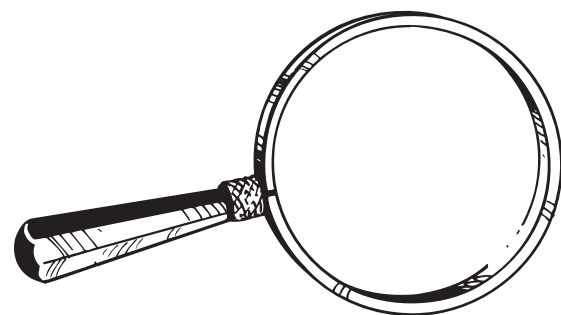
Fire investigators are trained to examine a fire scene by going from the minimum amount of burn dam-

age to the point or points with the maximum amount of burn damage. The rationale being that the fire has been burning longest where the most damage is and that is most probably where the fire began. In addition, they learn to "read" burn patterns that can reveal how the fire spread, how hot it was and how long it burned. They learn how to effectively collect evidence samples, how and when to avail themselves of resources such as accelerant-detection canines, state police fire investigators in the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and technical experts such as electricians.

### Witness-Driven Protocol

Massachusetts uses a witness-driven protocol of fire investigation. Investigators want to interview people who know the building or saw the fire start as quickly as possible while memories are fresh or before those displaced by the fire become hard to locate. Investigators compare the witness statements to the evidence found in the forensic scene examination to determine the cause of the fire. With possibly a large number of people to interview quickly, the benefit of the added manpower a team investigation brings is obvious. Investigators compare notes and often need to re-interview witnesses for clarification. A deep understanding of fire behavior is essential to evaluating witness statements.

Coan said, "It is a challenge to determine the cause of the fire when so much of the needed evidence is destroyed by the fire itself. This training provides our local fire and police investigators with the skills and knowledge to meet that challenge." ♦



## Taunton Bakery Fire

On October 8, 2008, State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, Taunton Fire Chief Leman W. Padelford and Taunton Police Chief Raymond O'Berg announced that a 43-year old Taunton man was arrested for setting fire to Art's International Bakery on August 12, 2008. Manual M. Arruda is charged with the burning of a building, breaking and entering in the nighttime and larceny over \$250. Investigators believe that Mr. Arruda broke into the building, stole money and then lit the fire to cover his crime.

The fire at 392 Washington Street, Taunton destroyed the building and put more than 15 people out of work. State Fire Marshal Coan said, "Arson is not a victimless crime. In this case it affected the owners of the business and building, employees, the bakery's customers, and everyone who lives in the neighborhood."

Chief Padelford said, "Arson fires put firefighters at a higher risk of injury because they often get a head start on us before they are discovered. We are fortunate no firefighters were injured at this fire."

The Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS) reported there were 344 arsons in structures in Massachusetts during 2007, which caused 28 fire service injuries, 21 civilian injuries, seven deaths and more than \$14 million in property damage.

The fire was jointly investigated by fire investigators from the Taunton Fire Department, detectives from the Taunton Police Department, state police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal and agents from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The case will be prosecuted by the Bristol District Attorney's Office. ♦

## Hopkinton Fatal Fire

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Hopkinton Fire Chief Gary T. Daugherty Sr. announced preliminary findings of their joint investigation into the fatal fire at 21 Meserve Street which point to a malfunctioning coal stove as the cause. The fire took the life of an adult male on November 2, 2008. Results are preliminary pending the medical examiners formal identification of the victim and determination of the cause of death.

Investigators believe the fire was most likely caused by a malfunctioning coal stove in the living room.

Chief Daugherty said, "This fire is truly tragic. Our investigation has

found no evidence that there were working smoke alarms in the home. We know that working smoke alarms can double your chances of surviving a fire by giving you time to escape." He added, "This fire happened on the very weekend when the fire service was trying to encourage people when they changed their clocks to change the batteries in their smoke alarms."

The fire was jointly investigated by the Hopkinton Fire Department, the Hopkinton Police Department, State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Middlesex District Attorney's Office. ♦

## Hanson Teen Burned by Gasoline

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, Hanson Fire Chief Jerome A. Thompson Jr and Hanson Police Chief Edward F. Savage III said they are jointly investigating a serious burn injury to a Hanson teenager. On the evening of September 3, 2008, a group of juveniles were in a local sandpit inappropriately and unsafely experimenting with fire and gasoline. The result was one boy was burned on 45% of his body surface area and he is currently being treated at a Boston hospital.

The circumstances of the burn injury are being investigated by the Hanson Fire Department, Hanson Police Department and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The investigation is continuing.

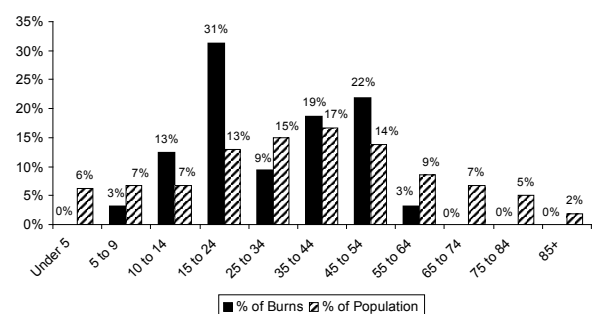
According the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS) in 2007, one-third of all victims of gasoline-related burns are youths aged 15-24. Nationally, teens aged 10-14 years old are the most likely group to get in trouble with gasoline and be treated for gasoline related burn injuries, according to Shriners Hospital for children.

said, "Because we handle gasoline so frequently to power engines, we forget to give it the respect it commands." He added, "Adults should speak to the children in their care about who should be handling gasoline, how and when. Young teens should not be handling gasoline without adult supervision and they need to understand how easily gasoline vapors can ignite."

Fire Chief Thompson said, "This tragic incident underscores how dangerous each and every inappropriate use of fire by juveniles can be. Juvenile firesetting by young teens must be taken very seriously and addressed appropriately by trained professionals." ♦

Source: Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS) 2007; Department of Fire Services

Gasoline Burns by Age



State Fire Marshal Coan



## Construction Moves Forward

**A**s this issue of the *All Hands Herald* goes to press, the final phases for occupying the new warehouse are being completed. This new 11,600 sq. ft. facility will house the Department of Fire Services' (DFS) print shop, mail room, engineering shops and the Fire Investigation Unit's evidence storage.

The new print shop and the mailroom, previously located in the basement of the main DFS building, are adjacent to each other and have expanded storage space for paper, equipment and supplies. The new engineering shops, temporarily located over the last several months in the former gas school classroom, include separate areas for woodworking, welding and other equipment as well as some separate staff office space. The shops will also have exterior garage door access to their work area and the main warehouse storage area. This will allow for improved inventory control over projects, equipment and supplies.

The Fire Investigation Unit's evidence storage will now have enclosed high bay storage in a secure area located at the back of the warehouse. In addition, there is office space for a warehouse manager and two specialized rooms - one for the Hazardous Materials Division to test suits and equipment and the other for the Crib Room to fill fire extinguishers and dry chemical cartridges (also known as the CO2 filling station).

As DFS staff moves into the new warehouse, work on the new Administration Building, approximately 39,000 sq. ft., continues to move forward. The entire building, plus part of the link building which will eventually connect the Administration Building to the new Firehouse, has been enclosed since the beginning of December. This will allow interior work to continue throughout the winter months. As of the beginning of December, most of the window frames and interior walls have been

completed as well as interior ductwork. The target date for completing this building is the end of summer 2009.



Photo by: Donna Nelson

The new Firehouse has had a delayed start due to the removal of the old septic system. This system was decommissioned in mid-November 2008 and removed by the end of the month. The successful connection to the new septic system proceeded at that time with no effect on the main DFS facility. Work is scheduled to

proceed quickly on the Firehouse in December with the excavation and pouring of the new foundations followed by the installation of the steel frame. Despite the delay due to the septic system, it is anticipated that the new Firehouse, approximately 18,921 sq. ft., will be completed by the end of next summer, about the same time as the Administration Building.

Throughout the remainder of the DFS construction site, the new upper parking lot with lighting and walk way has been open since late September. This has eased the parking crunch at DFS during construction. Staff, students and visitors are requested to use this parking lot as often as possible in order to keep the front area around the DFS main building clear, especially during the winter months. For this winter, DFS also requests that visitors use the designated visitor parking spaces in front and the upper parking lot, and NOT to park along State Road in front of the trailers. ♦

### FIRE AT HARVARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Deemed Accidental

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Harvard Fire Chief Robert J. Mignard announced the September 23, 2008 fire at a building owned by the Harvard Historical Society, located at 215 Still River Road, formerly the Still River Baptist Church, was accidental.

"It appears that the vapors from paint remover were unintentionally ignited by a spark from either a sander or a nail," said State Fire Marshal Coan.

Coan said that investigators from the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Harvard Fire and Police Departments discovered that painters were using chemical paint stripper on the side of the building's exterior. This was followed by the use of a sander

to further strip the paint. It is believed that a spark from the sander or a nail ignited residual vapors from the chemical stripper, which ignited the fire.

Fire Chief Mignard stated that the fire was knocked down quickly and was under control in approximately one hour. He also acknowledged the excellent mutual aid effort as nine surrounding fire departments (Ayer, Bolton, Boxboro, Clinton, Devens, Groton, Littleton, Lancaster, Stow) responded to assist. "As a result of the fire suppression effort, this historic landmark was saved, with damage limited to the attic and the exterior of the building," said Chief Mignard. No injuries were reported. ♦

# PUBLIC EDUCATION

14TH ANNUAL MA FIRE & LIFE SAFETY

## Education Conference in Taunton

Over 250 classroom teachers, nurses, firefighters, school resource officers and injury prevention experts gathered at the Taunton Holiday Inn on September 23 and 24, 2008 for two days of training and skill development in 30 workshops and four general sessions presented by 41 speakers. There were core workshops for new fire and life safety educators; workshops on new ideas, programs and teaching techniques to keep educators current; and workshops that continue to challenge and develop new skills for experienced educators.

### **Mansfield 'Young Heroes' Opened the Conference**

Two "young heroes" from the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program, Kelsey Attaya and Lauren Melton, opened the conference telling their story of responding to a house fire in Mansfield. Their quick actions are credited with saving a neighbor's home and their dog from a fire.

Amherst Fire Prevention Officer Michael Swain. FPO Swain received the 2008 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award for his work teaching students to be fire safe on college campuses in Massachusetts and nationally through the Center for College Fire Safety. He has tirelessly spent his whole career making college campuses safer through education. His unrelenting enthusiasm for the work both on and off the clock and his ability to mentor other fire and life safety educators is being recognized. Nine finalists were also honored:

- Deputy Chief Charlie Doody, Canton Fire Dept.
- Mr. David Moura, Teacher, Dighton Reg. High School
- FF Edward Gavin Jr. and FF/EMT Ryan Herrick, Halifax Fire Dept.
- FF Oona Aldrich S.A.F.E. Educator, Harvard Fire Dept.
- FF Maria V. Pelchar, Holyoke Fire Dept.

- FF Michael McLeier, Merrimac Fire Dept.
- Chief George L. Robichaud, Monson Fire Dept.
- FF Tim Kelly, Princeton Fire Dept.
- FF Matthew Bruso, SAFE Educator, Williamsburg Fire Dept.
- Montgomery County's William Delaney Keynote Speaker

### **Keynote Address Delivered by William Delaney**

William Delaney, Program Manager of Community Safety Education in Montgomery County (MD) Fire & Rescue Service delivered the keynote address, *Cultural Change: Position Life Safety Education as a Part of Your Department's Culture* on September 24, 2008. He explored what role fire and life safety educators can play in changing the community's attitude towards fire, and what internal attitude changes need to happen first. ♦



### **2008 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award**

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan presented the 2007 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award to University of Massachusetts

### **Fire Prevention Week**



PHOTO: Gathered at Waltham Fire Department Headquarters for the Fire Prevention Week kick-off event: Lt. John Craig, Lt. Brian Lefort, Mayor Jeannette McCarthy, Firefighter Bob Marshall (President of local 866), Fire Chief Richard Cardillo, Sparky the Fire Dog, and Tariq Khan from Domino's.



## Fatal Home Fires Jumped Nearly 68% during Cooler Months

WASHINGTON, D.C. – "Home fire season" starts now, and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) is working to make this year's cold months safer than last years—when there was a dramatic increase in home fire deaths. According to the USFA, during the "home fire season" of October 2007 to March 2008, there was a 68% increase in the number of fatal home fires and a 67% increase in the number of people killed in home fires, compared to the warmer months.

Not including arson-related deaths, from April 2007 through September 2007 at least 589 people were killed in home fires. When it became cooler, from October 2007 through March 2008, at least 982 people were killed in home fires.

Through its **Smoking & Home Fires Campaign**, the USFA wants to make this season safer, especially as it relates to the number one cause of preventable home fire deaths in the nation -- fires caused by smoking materials.

"Every year, about 1,000 people are killed in smoking-related home fires," says U.S. Fire Administrator Gregory B. Cade. "Smokers tend to smoke inside their homes more often because it's cooler outside, so what's important to remember is that smoking home fires can easily be prevented." He added, "It just takes a few seconds to light up – and a few seconds to make sure that the cigarette is really out."

During this time of the year, the use of holiday lighting, ornamental candles and space heaters also raises the risk of home fires.

### **Here's what you can do to prevent a smoking home fire:**

- If you feel you must smoke, it's better to smoke outside.
- Inside the home, use big ashtrays with a stable base.
- Really put the cigarette out, don't just tap it into the ashtray.

- It's not a good idea to smoke if you are drowsy, and never smoke in bed.
- If people smoke while at your home, check for cigarette butts near the furniture and under sofa cushions before you call it a night.
- Douse butts and ashes with water before you toss them into the trash.
- If you or someone in your family smokes, **Put It Out. All the Way. Every Time.**

The USFA has **materials for consumers, firefighters, and the media** including a video demonstrating how fast a smoldering cigarette can ignite and consume a room.

Through its **Smoking & Home Fires Campaign**, the USFA is reminding smokers and those who live with smokers to make sure smoking materials are properly extinguished and that they "Put It Out. All the Way. Every Time."

USFA data shows that one-in-four people killed in home fires is not the smoker whose cigarette caused the fire. In fact, 34% were children of the smokers and 25% were neighbors or friends of the smokers. Most smoking-related home fires happen on beds, furniture, or in trash when smokers do not put cigarettes all the way out, toss hot ashes in the trash or fall asleep while smoking.

The free campaign materials include a CD Toolkit with English and Spanish posters, brochures, fact sheets, public service announcements, PowerPoint presentations, an engaging video of a smoking-home fire demonstration, and more. The USFA also has video and radio PSAs available. The materials are available online and can be ordered or downloaded by visiting [www.usfa.dhs.gov/smoking](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/smoking). Fire departments and community organizations are encouraged to use these free materials. ♦



## Cigarettes don't know when you are asleep.

Every year, men, women and children are killed in preventable home fires caused by cigarettes and other smoking materials. Most victims of smoking-related fires never thought it could happen to them.

**If You Smoke, Put It Out. All the Way. Every Time.**

*Smoking & Home Fires: A campaign by the U.S. Fire Administration to prevent the #1 cause of home fire deaths.*

For tips on how to prevent home fires caused by smoking materials, visit [www.usfa.dhs.gov/smoking](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/smoking).



**FEMA**

The U.S. Fire Administration is a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and is part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

FA-309 / June 2007

# MASSACHUSETTS FIREFIGHTING ACADEMY

MASSACHUSETTS FIRE TRAINING COUNCIL RECEIVES

## Reaccreditation from the Pro Board

For the first six months of this calendar year, the Certification Group worked hard to prepare for the reaccreditation site visit by representatives of the Committee on Accreditation (COA) of the National Board on Fire Services Professional Qualifications (Pro Board). This preparation included an extensive self-assessment program covering test validity, policies, procedures, documentation, security, individual level accountability, and records.

On September 4 and 5, 2008, the site team arrived and engaged in every aspect of the certification system using the self-assessment document as a guide. The goal of the visit was to educate the site team on how our system works and to provide feedback in areas of excellence, areas meeting expectations, and recommendations for improvement. They

also presented a proposed final report to be submitted to the full COA for voting purposes. A favorable report was submitted and on September 26, 2008, the COA granted reaccreditation to the Massachusetts Fire Training Council.

This was the fourth visit by the COA over the past 20 years and areas of improvement are always identified. These recommendations will be reviewed and implemented to make the system more valid, defensible, and reliable. A tip of the hat to all who made this massive project successful.

Any questions please refer to Bob Rand, Coordinator, Certification Group at 978-567-3223 or [Robert.Rand@state.ma.us](mailto:Robert.Rand@state.ma.us). ♦

TRAIN THE TRAINER

## Fire Based Dispatchers

The Department of Fire Services, Special Operations Division and the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts (FCAM) Fire Mobilization Committee have jointly developed a 3-hour train-the-trainer program for fire-based dispatchers.

This new program, designed for civilian dispatchers, fire alarm operators and fire control point and district mutual-aid centers, was offered in December at no cost in four locations - Marlboro, Taunton, Wakefield and West Springfield. Due to popular demand, these venues had to increase their room capacities to hold up to 120 attendees each to allow for over 400 individuals to be trained.

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 12**

TRAIN-THE-TRAINER

## Statewide Rapid Intervention Team

The Firefighter Skills Training Group of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) has developed and begun delivering a program to meet the growing need for a standardized statewide rapid intervention team concept. The foundation provided in this program will allow firefighters from any community to work as a team if the need arises. It is designed on the fundamentals of basic operations to accomplish the task of rescuing a downed firefighter. This program is intended to be taught to designated members of the individual fire departments who will then be able to teach it to the members of their own departments.

The statewide Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) initiative was successfully handed off to departments within MetroFire last June. It is scheduled

to be handed off to departments within Plymouth and Essex counties in the fall of 2008. Other offerings, follow-up support and site support will be scheduled on a regular basis in the coming months as time and resources allow.

The RIT train-the-trainer is a physically demanding four-day training program that includes such skills as directed search, window lifts, ladder carries, drags, and entanglement to name just a few. It will also offer guidelines on what resources will be needed if a RIT is activated. All participants will be required to demonstrate their ability to complete the evolutions so that the MFA will be confident that they will be able to deliver the training to their communities.

Once a firefighter has completed all the skills and been signed off by the trainer, that firefighter will then be able to apply to any of the four-hour firefighter advanced survival skills classes that will be offered around the state.

Creating this program has taken a lot of time and effort on the part of MFA instructors. The program goal was to create a standard, modularized program to afford communities the flexibility to deliver all the skills in a format best suited to their training schedule. Special thanks should be given to Jack Beckwith, Ron Downing, Bob Foley, Kevin Galligan, Paul LaRochelle, Sandy Lasz, Ed Morrissey and Sean White and all those who contributed to putting this program together. ♦



# MFA HazMat Training Group

By David Loh

**T**he Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Training Group has been working on innovative changes to the current course curriculum and methods of delivery in order to meet today's fire service challenge. They will be rolled out in early 2009.

The HazMat Tech Program will see more E-Base Blended training which is a combination of the Internet, textbook and hands-on training. This will enable the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) to spend more time on hands-on student development.

The HazMat Requal/Re-Entry will also see E-Base blended programs and increased hands on exercises to prepare HazMat Technicians for assignments to the Regional HazMat Teams.

## **New Hazardous Materials-Operational Level Responder Program**

The MFA is developing a new Hazardous Materials-Operational Level Responder (OLR) program. This

course will meet the newly revised 2008 edition of NFPA 472. This program will replace the HazMat FRO program and will offer certification as Hazardous Materials-Operational Level Responder for the MFA Recruit Firefighter I-II, municipal hire and open classes in early 2009. Watch for scheduling information.

## **HazMat Operations Training**

In addition to the hazardous materials training conducted by the regional team training coordinators, the Regional HazMat Teams have been receiving training delivered by the MFA.

HazMat Operations identified sixteen competency based, specific programs to be developed and administered. So far, Site Safety Planning has been delivered to Districts 1, 2, 4, 5 & 6 and Selection of Personal Protective Clothing has been delivered to Districts 4, 5 & 6.

The next program expected to be delivered is Meter Technology and Control. ♦

# 9/11 Ceremony

On September 11, 2008, the staff at the Department of Fire Services held a remembrance ceremony in the drill yard to honor all the people - civilians, firefighters, EMTs, and police officers - who lost their lives in terrorist attacks seven years ago. Director of Homeland Security Kevin Partridge was the emcee and there were reflections by several DFS staff members and DFS' David Hunte sang the national anthem. ♦



Photo by: Michele Vincequere

REPRINTED FROM

**www.FirefighterCloseCalls.com**

## **Hazmat-Stay Home If You Are Not Trained And Qualified.....Amongst Lots More That Goes Wrong On This Close Call!**

**Sunday, April 23, 2006**

Our small FD got a call from a factory saying that they had a chemical leak and would like the fire dept to check it out (only two or three guys on the dept. trained to the tech. level). The fire chief tells two green firefighters to hop in the tanker and go check it out. They turn down the road toward the factory and it hits them CHLORINE GAS! They rapidly get out of the tanker put their bunker gear on & SCBA. Radio the chief, tell him what they have. The director of a well trained regional haz

mat team located five minutes away hears the radio traffic and offers to send a haz-mat unit to the scene. The fire chief tells him "negative". The chief calls the firefighters on a cell phone (he's not at the scene and he never responds) and tells them to take care of it. The young brothers, fearing reprimand, go and shut off a LEAKING CHLORINE CYLINDER, in regular bunker gear. The cylinder was located outside the factory. The two brothers were trained only to the awareness level. How I found out about this, I was going over SCBA drills in the bay (a large apparatus bay) and kept smelling something. One of the students asked to speak with me. He asked me if I thought his gear was o.k. Standing about three feet away from the chlorine

vapors would sting your nostrils. This was five days after this incident happened! That's when I began piecing together what happened. The fire chief is the only full time paid fire official in this town, everyone else is paid on call. He is now working furiously to try to cover up the incident. The firefighters complained of some symptoms that may be relative, but at last word, the chief had the brothers talked out of any medical evaluation (one of the firefighters told me he didn't want to say anything due to fear of getting kicked off the department). What happens from here, I don't know. ♦

## Award Recipients

By Michelle Andrade

The Performance Recognition Program (PRP) committee would like to congratulate Christina Mitchell, Christine Dansereau, Donna Nelson and Michele Vincequere on being the recipients



Photo by: DFS Staff

State Fire Marshal Coan (left) presents the PRP award to DFS staff member Donna Nelson (right)

of this year's Pride in Performance Awards. They were nominated by their coworkers and recommended by the PRP committee and State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan to receive this prestigious award. There were many worthy recommendations this year, but these four individuals



Photo by: DFS Staff

DFS staff member Christina Mitchell (left) accepts her PRP award from Deputy State Fire Marshal Tom Leonard (right)

stood out for their dedication and valuable work towards the mission of the Department of Fire Services.

Here are a few excerpts from the nomination forms highlighting our PRP recipients for this year.

*"Christina is a model employee. Her integrity is of the highest standard, time and attendance is unspeakable and I can truly remark from the time she arrives until her departure she is devoted to DFS/MFA goals".*

*"Christine does her job with pride, professionalism and skill".*



Photo by: DFS Staff

State Fire Marshal Coan (left) hands DFS staff member Christine Dansereau (right) her PRP award

*"Donna should be recognized for the dedication and diligence she has exhibited during the difficult process of the expansion project. Someone who works as hard as she does and still smiles should be recognized".*

*"Michele never takes any of the credit for herself and will always say the guys were able to get it accomplished. That is an important part of being a leader".*

These employees set high standards for themselves and they motivate and influence their fellow workers to adopt similar standards. DFS congratulates them on a job well done. ♦

## Fire Based Dispatchers

Continued from Page 10

In today's world of overwhelming amounts of emergency response equipment, each with its own unique and confusing acronyms, there is an increased need to regularly familiarize local dispatchers and communications personnel with these changing resources. This training has been developed to update local dispatchers on all of the fire, EMS, emergency management, public works and other critical community resources and equipment available on a local, regional and statewide basis. Important contact information will be shared with the audience, especially how to contact resources and what to expect from other organizations.

For instance, some of the topics included in the training are: Fire District Control Points, Fire and Ambulance Mobilization, State Hazardous Material Response Teams, Mass Casualty Trailers, Mass Decontamination Units, Communications Vehicles, Mass Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Resources, Department of Fire Service (DFS) Resources, Massachusetts State Police, National Guard Air Operation Support, Rehab & Canteen Services, and other state and regional assets. The various resources are discussed and an explanation of how to activate each one is provided. A brief question and answer period concludes each session.

Each represented community at the sessions left with a CD with all the training materials and PDF documents to bring back to their community and share with all the other dispatchers.

Later this winter, a second program will be offered to a limited number of attendees. Anyone interested in this training should check the DFS website for further information at [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs). ♦



# CODE COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT

The following advisories were recently sent to local fire departments from the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The full text of the advisories may be found online at [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) then in the right hand column click on OSFM Advisories. If you have any questions, please contact the Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit at 978-567-3375 or in western Massachusetts at 413-587-3181. Building officials can contact the Department of Public Safety at 617-727-3200.

## DISPENSING OF GASOLINE INTO Portable Containers

November 1, 2008 - There has been a recent increase in the number of incidents in which motor fuel, particularly gasoline, has been dispensed into unapproved or illegal containers. There are several applicable provisions of the State Fire Code, which prohibit this practice.

527 CMR 5.10(1) prohibits the sale or transfer of any container for use in handling or transporting flammable or combustible liquids unless that

container meets one of the following requirements: it is built to DOT (U.S. Department of Transportation standards; is approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory and is approved by the State Fire Marshal. As a matter of policy, the Office of the State Fire Marshal does not approve or test any device, container or appliance.

527 CMR 5.08(3) prohibits the dispensing of gasoline into any container not meeting the requirements specified above.

527 CMR 5.08(4) prohibits refueling of any portable container inside a vehicle.

527 CMR 8.21(5) limits the maximum (gasoline) container size to 7 gallons and the total (gasoline) quantity to 21 gallons per vehicle without a permit. This section also prohibits transportation of containers within the passenger compartment of the vehicle. ♦

## Cigarette Fire Investigation Checklist

November 18, 2008

State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan is requesting again that local fire departments send a completed *Cigarette Fire Investigation Checklist* to the Fire Data & Public Education Unit at the Office of the State Fire Marshal any time there has been a fire suspected to have been started by a cigarette.

On January 1, 2008, Fire Standard Compliant (FSC) cigarettes became Massachusetts law. The heads of all local fire departments and the commander of the State Police Fire Investigation Unit were asked to make it a policy to determine, whenever possible, if cigarettes involved in fires were, or were not, fire standard compliant.

In order to track this information, all fire departments were asked earlier this year to complete the 'Cigarette Fire Investigation Checklist' any time an investigation determines a fire was started by a cigarette. This information will allow the Department of Fire Services (DFS) to monitor compliance and to determine if FSC cigarettes are reducing the number of smoking fires, fire deaths and injuries, and property loss due to smoking.

To date, the DFS has received a

very low number of these checklists relative to the number of fires reported in the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS) as ignited by cigarettes.

This checklist is in addition to, and not a replacement for, the mandatory reporting of fires via MFIRS. The information acquired from these investigations will be entered into a database and when linked to MFIRS will become a powerful new tool in the fire prevention arsenal. The data would be available to local heads of fire departments upon request.

The Cigarette Fire Investigation Checklist can be downloaded from the DFS website [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs), by clicking on "Quick Links – DFS" then on "Cigarette Fire Investigation Checklist." If response to a fire is solely that of the local department, the chief will be tasked with submitting this checklist; if the Fire Investigation Unit responds to the scene of the fire, the FIU will submit the checklist.

If you have any questions about the use of the checklist, then please contact Adrienne Beaudoin, Fire Safe Cigarette Program Coordinator @ 978-567-3721 or [Adrienne.Beaudoin@state.ma.us](mailto:Adrienne.Beaudoin@state.ma.us). ♦

## RULING ON SPRINKLERFITTER License Requirements

December 1, 2008

The Fire Marshal recently sent out the advisory ruling issued by the Bureau of Pipefitters, Sprinklerfitter and Refrigeration Technicians to provide fire departments with information and guidance on the license issued to perform work on fire protection sprinkler systems. For further information on this advisory ruling and the official interpretation of the sprinklerfitter license requirements, please refer to the Department of Public Safety's website at [www.mass.gov/dps](http://www.mass.gov/dps). Fire departments may also contact the Technical Service Unit of the State Fire Marshal at 978-567-3375, or in western Massachusetts at 413-587-3181. ♦

## Oil Burning Equipment Training

**November 21, 2008**

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, in conjunction with the Office of the State Fire Marshal, presented four training seminars in December on 527 CMR 4.00, Oil Burning Equipment.

This program has been designed to provide a brief overview of 527 CMR 4.00 with an emphasis on permit requirements, as well as basic

instruction in conducting inspections of residential fuel oil burning equipment. George Lanthier of Firedragon Enterprises conducted the training classes which were held at the Easthampton Fire Department and the Department of Fire Services headquarters in Stow, MA.

527 CMR 4.00 applies to the installation of oil burning equipment that has the principal intent of producing

heat. This regulation covers oil-fired stationary equipment, including, but not limited to industrial, commercial and residential-type steam, hot water or warm air heating plants; domestic range burners and space heaters; portable oil burning equipment, including all accessory equipment and control systems, whether electric, thermostatic, or mechanical and electrical wiring used in connection with such systems. ♦

## Chapter 148A Code Violation Booklets

**December 1, 2008**

The newly revised *Chapter 148A Code Violation Booklets*, most recently approved by the Courts for current use, are now available at the Department of Fire Services for designated communities. Any city or town, who is authorized to write violations pursuant to M.G.L. c. 148A (by virtue of appointment of a designated hearings officer and is in re-

ceipt of Non-Criminal Code Violation Ticket books, as confirmed by the Department of Public Safety) may request copies of this new booklet be sent to their attention for use. Requests may be made to Mary Elizabeth Lynch, Paralegal, by phone at (978) 567-3181, by fax at (978) 567-3121, or by e-mail at MaryElizabeth.Lynch@state.ma.us. ♦

## Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs)

**December 1, 2008**

As the use of Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) become common, a number of issues have been reported to the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and nationally to the U. S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC). These reports indicate that when the CFLs burn out at the end of their useful life, a number of them have a tendency to smoke or

give off a burning odor.

To date, there have been no reports of the bulbs reaching the flame stage. The CPSC is closely monitoring the situation, and the CFL manufacturers are working on the issue. Heads of fire departments may wish to advise their staffs of this issue and the potential for CFLs to be a source of smoke or "burning odors". ♦

## Marine Fueling Permits

**October 1, 2008**

This past fall, the Office of the State Fire Marshal mailed renewal applications for marine fueling to facilities throughout the state. There has been a change in procedure as it relates to mobile marine fueling.

Mobile marine fueling that occurs entirely within a single city, town, or district requires one marine fueling permit. The application for the permit

must list all mobile fueling locations within the jurisdiction. Heads of fire departments may attach conditions or restrictions to individual locations or to all locations, as deemed appropriate.

Mobile marine fueling, which occurs in multiple cities, towns, or districts, requires a separate application and permit for each separate jurisdiction. ♦

## FF of the Year Awards

*Continued from Page 1*

Medals of Valor to individual firefighters from Brookline, Fall River, Milton and Saugus; and seven Individual Awards for Meritorious Conduct to firefighters from Boston, Falmouth, Gloucester, Hull, Swampscott and two from Saugus. The Community Service award was presented to a Beverly firefighter.

Six Group Awards for Meritorious Conduct were awarded to teams of firefighters from Fall River, Gloucester, Hyannis, Rockland, Saugus and Stoughton.

Undersecretary Schwartz said, "Secretary Burke and I are proud to work shoulder to shoulder with these courageous firefighters and to help provide the training and the resources to make sure everyone goes home."

State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan presented the Fire Marshal's award to National Fire Protection Association President James M. Shannon for the work of the Coalition for Fire Safe Cigarettes™ and to the Board of Directors of the Fallen Firefighters Memorial for their efforts to erect a permanent memorial at the State House.

A special Excellence in Leadership award was presented to Everett firefighters for their handling of the gasoline tanker truck fire last year.

There was also a special salute honoring firefighters who have been deployed to the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan. ♦



## Taking Lighters Out of Kids' Hands

**G**o into a convenience store and locate the cigarette lighters. Not only will you find they are easily accessible by you or any young child, you will also see many that are toy-like in appearance and enticing to young children. Now, did you know that there is no minimum age to buy a lighter in Massachusetts? Thanks to a 12-year old student at the Brandon School, this will change as of January 1, 2009 in Natick, MA.

While exploring a fire-safety community service project for Fire Prevention Month, the student read an article in *Hot Issues*, the newsletter put out by the Oregon Office of the State Fire Marshal. The article highlighted a child in Alabama leading the charge to ban novelty lighters in his community and the student resolved to forge a safety campaign of his own. With the support of Brandon staff, Liz Maestranzi, the student approached Lt. James Arena of Natick Fire, discussed whether a law in Natick or Massachusetts prohibited novelty lighters. Following some research they concluded that no such law or bylaw exists. They also concluded that novelty lighters, specifically, are not the greatest concern in Natick, but that *all* lighters in the hands of children are dangerous. Brandon and the Natick Fire Department proposed a bylaw that will restrict children's access to all light-

ers. The measure passed at Natick's November Town Meeting and the Brandon student received praise from the fire chief, the firefighter's union president and several other town meeting members. One town board member noted that "if a 12-year old thinks this is a public safety issue, who are we to disagree?"

The new bylaw requires store owners to remove lighters from counters. They will instead be kept behind or above the counter, where cigarettes are kept. Requiring little to no funding, minimal effort on the part of businesses, and simple enforcement by the fire service, this bylaw's effects on public safety far outweighs its costs. Dr. Timothy Callahan, Brandon's Executive Director, is "impressed and proud that Brandon's students are working closely with the Natick Fire Department to take the initiative on such an important life saving measure."

Limiting access to ignition materials is the first step in decreasing fire setting behavior and improving public safety. Dangerous firesetting behavior is much more prevalent than fire reports demonstrate. Unbeknownst to many parents, teachers, politicians and even firefighters, local kids are setting fires. Dr. Robert Stadolnik, a national expert in the field of juvenile firesetting and a consulting psychologist at Brandon,

reminds people, "there is no way to categorize the kids who set fires." The behavior spans ages, gender, ethnicity, cognitive ability and socioeconomic status and unfortunately is grossly under-reported. The societal mentality of, "well that's just boys being boys," or "they're just playing" persists, but the unfortunate truth is that once a fire is lit it is hard to control.

Juvenile firesetting is a dangerous, preventable and treatable behavior. Support the effort to make children and all Massachusetts communities safer by limiting access to lighters, by keeping ignition materials in your home out of the reach of children and by supporting fire education in our schools and communities. For more information contact Rebecca Porter at 508-655-6400 x 252 or by e-mail at [rporter@brandonschool.org](mailto:rporter@brandonschool.org). ♦

## Chemical Process Safety Management

On January 27, 2009 the Department of Fire Services will sponsor a daylong seminar on process safety management (PSM). The program will describe and show two or three historical losses that led up to the enactment of the regulation on process safety management and will describe twelve elements of a successful program. The seminar will focus on five of these elements and will use case studies to discuss process safety knowledge, process hazards analysis, process risk management, mechanical integrity and management of change in more detail.

The overall objective of the seminar is for participants to know what they can expect at a chemical plant that is regulated by the OSHA PSM law as well as have the basic knowledge of how plant personnel should respond to questions about their process safety management program. There is a \$20 fee for this seminar. Applicants should use the standard DFS/MFA application form. Additional information can be found on the DFS website at [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs). ♦

## 2 ARRESTED IN New Bedford Arsons

Arthur Wrightington, 34, and Carrie Gosson, 33, were arrested on December 1, 2008 for setting fire to 19 Nye Street and 310 North Front Street in New Bedford on April 27, 2008. These fires spread to two adjacent buildings. The two were charged with four counts of burning a dwelling, breaking and entering in the nighttime, malicious destruction of property and larceny over \$250. Witnesses indicated to investigators that the motive was "urban mining". They wanted to enter the houses later and strip them of exposed copper and metal wiring to sell for cash. Mr. Wrightington is also charged with two counts of witness intimidation for allegedly threatening witnesses who spoke to investigators.

The fire was jointly investigated by the New Bedford Fire Department, New Bedford Police Department, State Police assigned to the Office

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 16**

## Plan Submittals

Fire prevention offices see plans and reports all the time that have seals (stamps) of professional engineers (PE's). There are statutes and regulations governing the use of these stamps that, when adhered to, allow the reviewer to ascertain that the plans were prepared under the supervision of the professional engineer.

### **Here is the unofficial copy of some of these provisions:**

MGL Ch. 112 S. 81M: "... Plans, specifications, plats and reports prepared by a registrant shall be stamped with the said seal when filed with public authorities, while the registrant's certificate is in force, but it shall be unlawful for anyone to stamp or seal any documents with said seal after the certificate of the registrant named thereon has expired or has been revoked, unless said certificate shall have been renewed or reissued. Plans, specifications, plats and reports whenever stamped with the seal of a registered professional engineer or professional land surveyor shall be signed by the registrant named thereon. The use of a facsimile signature stamp shall not be deemed to comply with this section."

The four things to note in these provisions is that documents submitted to a fire prevention office by a PE must be stamped, signed by the PE, the stamp/signature must be the original, and the status of the PE's registration must be current at the time the plans were sealed.

MGL Ch. 143 S. 54A: "No officer, board or commission of the Commonwealth, or of any city, town or district, charged with the enforcement of the state building code or laws, by-laws, ordinances, rules or regulations relating to the construction, reconstruction, enlargement or

alteration of buildings or structures, shall accept or approve any plans or specifications that do not bear the seal of registration of an architect or a professional engineer, unless the plans and specifications are not required to be prepared by a registered architect or by a registered professional engineer, as set forth in sections sixty L and eighty-one R, respectively, of chapter one hundred and twelve; provided, however, that this section shall not be construed as authorizing a registered architect or registered professional engineer to prepare or submit plans and specifications which he is prohibited from preparing or submitting under any other provision of law."

MGL Ch. 112 S. 81R: "Nothing in said sections shall be construed to prevent or to affect:— (a) the practice of any other legally recognized profession including the practice of architecture as defined in this chapter and the practice of any trade, including, in connection with the practice of the electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilating, air conditioning, refrigeration and all other trades, the preparation of plans, specifications or shop drawings by any person, firm, partnership, corporation or association practicing any such trade, for work to be installed or being installed by the same person, firm, partnership, corporation or association preparing such plans, specifications or shop drawings..."

These sections require that construction documents submitted to the fire prevention office be sealed by a registered architect or PE unless the provisions of '81R exception' apply. The '81R exception' typically applies to the preparation of working drawings by a properly licensed contractor that will be installing the fire protection system.

The regulations governing the practice of the PE, including professional responsibilities of the PE, are found in 250 CMR, *Rules and Regulations Governing Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors*. For more information, visit the [www.mass.gov/dpl](http://www.mass.gov/dpl) website.

If you have questions, you can contact an OSFM Fire Protection Engineer as follows: if your jurisdiction contains, or is south of, the Mass. Pike - contact Jake Nunnemacher at 978-567-3377 or [jacob.nunnemacher@state.ma.us](mailto:jacob.nunnemacher@state.ma.us). For jurisdictions north of the Mass. Pike - contact Dana Haagensen at 978-567-3376 or [dana.haagensen@state.ma.us](mailto:dana.haagensen@state.ma.us). ♦

## **New Bedford**

***Continued from Page 15***

of the State Fire Marshal and the Bristol County District Attorney's Office. An accelerant detection canine was used during the investigation.

New Bedford officials are concerned that vacant, abandoned, and foreclosed properties will be targets for vandalism and arson. Working together in close collaboration, they believe that thorough investigations, prompt arrests and aggressive prosecution will have a deterrent effect. The Bristol District Attorney's Office is moving to seek dangerousness hearings to detain defendants charged with arson, as they do with firearms-related cases. City officials are also taking steps to properly board-up and secure vacant buildings and more importantly, to work to move them back to being inhabited. ♦



## MFIRS

### **Coding Tips for Heating Fires**

Winter is here. People have turned on the heat so expect heating related incidents to increase. Also with the cost of home heating oil and natural gas expected to be higher than last year, we expect more people to turn to use alternate heating sources like fireplaces, wood stoves and space heaters. With the increased use, comes an increase in fire risk. Please impress upon your staff to be as detailed as they can in these instances.

#### **Here are a few coding tips: Fuel Burner/Boiler Malfunction**

- Incident Type: Type = 116 – Fuel Burner/Boiler Malfunction, Fire Confined
- Basic Module only if fire is confined.
- Chimney or Flue Fire
- Incident Type = 114 – Chimney or Flue Fire, Contained to Chimney or Flue.
- Basic Module only if fire is confined.

#### **Unconfined Heating Structure Fires**

- Basic Module, Fire Module and Structure Fire Module
- Incident Type: 111-112 or 120-123 – structure fire, mobile home
- Heat Source: 10-13 – heat from operating equipment or 43 – hot ember/ash
- Type of Material First Ignited: 11-12, gas, 25, oil/kerosene, 34, creosote, 56, coal;
- Equipment Involved in Ignition 120-152 – heating equipment
- Equipment Power Source Required.
- Equipment Portability Required: 1 – Portable or 2- Stationary.

#### **Some examples are:**

- Portable electrical heater ignites bedding in a portable building –
- Incident Type = 123, structure fire in mobile property: ex. construction trailer
- Heat Source = 12 – radi-

ated heat from equipment

- Item First Ignited = 32 - bedding
- Type of Material First Ignited = 71 - fabric
- Equipment Involved in Ignition = 141 – space heater
- Equipment Power Source = 12 - electric
- Equipment Portability = 1 - portable.

#### **Sparks from a wood burning stove ignite the carpeting in the room on fire –**

- Incident Type = 111 – building fire
- Heat Source = 43 – hot ember/ash
- Item First Ignited = 14 - rug
- Type of Material First Ignited = 70 - fabric
- Equipment Involved in Ignition = 123 - stove
- Equipment Power Source = 41 - wood
- Equipment Portability = 2 - stationary

#### **Kerosene heater ignites an interior wall in a mobile home (being used as a fixed structure) –**

- Incident Type = 121 – mobile home
- Heat Source = 12 – radiated heat from equipment
- Item First Ignited = 15 – interior wall covering
- Type of Material First Ignited = 65 – particle board
- Equipment Involved in Ignition = 141 –space heater
- Equipment Power Source = 33 - kerosene
- Equipment Portability = 1 – portable.

#### **Chimney fire in One-Family**

- Incident Type = 111, building fire
- Heat Source: 11, flame from operating equipment (fireplace)
- Item First Ignited: 95, chimney film or residue
- Type of Material First Ignited: 34, creosote

- Equipment Involved: 126, brick chimney
- Equipment Power Source: 41, wood
- Equipment Portability: 2, stationary

## 2008 MFIRS

### **2008 Incident Report Submissions Now Over-Due**

By the printing and distribution of this *All Hands Herald*, calendar year 2008 will be behind us. Every fire department should have submitted their incident reports for Jan-Dec 2008. If all of the reports have not been sent, please submit them as soon as possible. If there are any problems, please contact Derryl Dion at the number below. If a department did not have any reportable fires or explosions in 2008, please have the chief or head of the department sign the Certified No Reportable Fires certificate that will soon be mailed to them.

### **2008 Year-End Quality Control & Feedback Reports**

By the end of February 2009, all chiefs will be receiving their 2008 year-end quality control and feedback reports. Please check these reports carefully, especially the fields civilian fire deaths, fire service deaths and total dollar loss for complete accuracy. If there are any errors or omissions please contact us as soon as possible.

Our goal is to begin the 2008 analysis cycle in May and to complete the 2008 MFIRS Annual Report by the end of July 2009. We cannot do this without your help and attention to detail. All reports must be submitted by the end of February and all quality control corrections must be completed by the end of April.

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 18**

**MFIRS**  
Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System

**Intentionally Set = Arson**

In MFIRS, a fire is considered arson if the Cause of Ignition (Fire Module) = 1 (Intentional) and the Age of Person (Fire Module) is greater than 17 or if the field is blank; or if the Wildland Module is used in place of the Fire Module, the Wildland Fire Cause = 7 (Incendiary) and the Age of the Person (Wildland Module) is greater than 17 or if the field is left blank.

**Need for Updated Reports**

Departments need to submit updated MFIRS reports once investigators have completed their investigations. Whether the SOG's allow the fire investigator, the chief, deputy chief, or officer in command, to do this, the MFIRS report needs to be updated and then resubmitted (the next time the incident reports are submitted) when anything new is discovered or an investigation is completed. This should be done even if the fire investigators are using another system other than MFIRS for their investigative reports. This is especially true for fatal or large loss fires.

**Fatal or Large Loss Fires**

If there is a fire or explosion with a fatality or large loss (>\$1,000,000), please forward a paper copy of the MFIRS report with a completed Remarks section to Derryl Dion within two business days. The report should include the Basic, Fire, Civilian Fire &/or Fire Service Casualty Module(s), and Structure Fire Module (needed for all structure fires). This most likely will be a preliminary report and unless otherwise noted, the complete report can be filed at a later date. Every effort should be taken to make sure that these reports are as complete as they can be given all of the information available at the end of the investigation. FIU reports are separate from MFIRS reports, and using the team concept of investigation, both reports should reflect the same conclusions.

A copy of any 2008 fatal fire incident report should have already been

received by the Fire Data & Public Education Unit. The fax number is 978-567-3199.

**Electronic Reporting**

The e-mail address to send your electronic MFIRS reports to is: [MFIRS.Report@state.ma.us](mailto:MFIRS.Report@state.ma.us). One or two days after your first submission via e-mail please call Derryl Dion at 978-567-3382 to confirm its receipt. Departments that are reporting electronically should be submitting their incidents on a monthly basis. If a department is having trouble with its computer systems, that department should notify the Fire Data unit as soon as possible; and if the problem persists, paper copies should be forwarded to DFS so they can be entered into the system here by hand.

**Training**

If a department needs more training on MFIRS v5 and can guarantee 15 students, please contact Derryl Dion to set up an MFIRS v5 class. It is a four-hour MFA class that comes with four OEMS credits. Enrollment must be open to other departments. Classes may also be held at night.

**Upcoming MFIRS Classes**

Wednesday, 3/11/09 @ the Dept. of Industrial Accidents in Lawrence, MA from 09:00 – 13:00. Course # 200000613 Session A. Tuesday, 4/14/09 @ MFA in Stow, MA from 09:00 – 13:00. Course # 200000613 Session B. Please use standard MFA registration forms and procedures.

**Assistance**

Please contact Derryl Dion, Research Analyst/MFIRS Manager at 978-567-3382 or [Derryl.Dion@state.ma.us](mailto:Derryl.Dion@state.ma.us) with any questions regarding MFIRS or to conduct fire data or histories research. ♦

**CONSEQUENCES FOR****Illegal Use of Fireworks**

A New Hampshire father broke the law when he brought fireworks purchased legally in New Hampshire to Lake Samoset, Leominster, MA last July 4. His 3-year old son was severely burned when a roman candle went in the wrong direction. The father received probation for the illegal possession of fireworks and reckless endangerment of a child. The judge ordered the father to make a \$100 contribution to Shriners Hospital for Children that treats children for burns, to perform 25 hours of community service at a burn hospital, fire prevention program or school, or all three as well as to be involved in some other meaningful public service program in which he speaks about the dangers of fireworks. It was also recommended that he be involved in a public service announcement to be shown on local cable access television. The case was prosecuted by the Worcester District Attorney's Office.

Another case, of a teenager being burned by illegal fireworks on July 4, 2008 has gone to the grand jury. A teen was badly burned on his thigh when a stray firework went up his shorts and exploded. The event took place at Walker Pond in Sturbridge. The incident is an active investigation by the Sturbridge Police and has been turned over to the Worcester District Attorney's Office. ♦



**Leave Fireworks to the Professionals!**



The following are excerpts from press releases issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) regarding products recalled for fire or burn hazards. Consumers should immediately stop using any of these products and contact the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission or the manufacturer for instructions on how to proceed. The web address is: [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

## 2-WAY RADIOS

11/13/08..... 09-044

### Children's 2-Way Radios

*Cobra Electronics*

The rechargeable batteries in the radios can leak electrolyte.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09044.html>



## BATTERIES

10/8/08 ..... 09-004

### Rechargeable Batteries

*Coby Electronics Corp.*

The rechargeable battery can overheat.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09004.html>

10/14/08 ..... 09-010

### GN9120 Wireless Headsets

*GN Netcom Inc.*

An internal short-circuit can cause the lithium-ion polymer batteries to overheat.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09010.html>

10/30/08 ..... 09-035

### Lithium-Ion Batteries in HP, Toshiba & Dell Notebook Computers

*Sony Energy Devices Corp.*

The batteries can overheat.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09035.html>

11/18/08..... 09-045

### DiNotte Lighting Lithium-Ion Batteries Used w/Bicycle Lights

*AA Portable Power Corp.*

A loose wiring connection & improper venting can cause the battery to overheat.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09045.html>

## BATTERY CHARGERS

10/15/08 ..... 09-013

### BC-50 Battery Chargers

*Fujifilm U.S.A. Inc.*

The plastic portion of the unit's power plug can crack or detach.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09013.html>

## CANDLE

11/20/08..... 09-053

### Anthropologie Tin Candles

*Candela Group*

The candle flames could flare up out of the tin container during the burning of the last 1/2" of wax.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09053.html>

## CANDLE HOLDERS

10/29/08 ..... 09-027

### Ghost Tealight Holders

*Trade Associates Group Ltd.*

The holder can ignite.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09027.html>

## CORDLESS SCREWDRIVERS

9/3/08 ..... 08-388

### MasterForce 3.6V Cordless Screwdriver

*Great Star Industry Co.*

The battery can overheat & ignite during charging.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08388.html>

## FLUORESCENT LIGHTS

9/23/08 ..... 08-405

### Gotham Impac Fluorescent Downlights

*Gotham Lighting*

The relay on the backup battery of the lights could be programmed incorrectly & prevent the lights from functioning in an emergency.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08405.html>

## GAS BOILERS

9/11/08..... 08-397

### Gas Boilers

*PB Heat LLC.*

The pressure switch could have an internal defect that could fail to shut down the boilers under vent or air inlet blockage. This could allow the boilers to produce excessive levels of CO.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08397.html>

10/2/08 ..... 09-002

### Vitodens 200 Boilers

*Viessmann Manufacturing Co. Inc.*

The boiler can leak gas.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09002.html>

## GAS GRILLS

10/22/08 ..... 09-020

### Blue Ember Gas Grills

*Fiesta Gas Grills*

The gas grill can be assembled improperly exposing the gas burner hoses to excessive heat.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09020.html>

## GAS RANGES

9/3/08 ..... 08-391

### Wolf Appliance Gas Range

*Wolf Appliance Inc.*

Delayed ignition of gas in the 18" oven can cause flash flames to be projected at the consumer when the range door is opened.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08391.html>

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 20**

## CPSC Recalls

Continued from Page 19

### GAS VENT DAMPERS

10/9/08 ..... 09-008

#### Automatic Gas Vent Dampers

*Effikal LLC.*

The automatic gas vent damper could fail, & if the blocked vent switch doesn't activate, the vent could leak CO.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09008.html>

### GUITARS

10/22/08 ..... 09-019

#### Rage Wireless Guitars

*Performance Designed Products LLC.*

A circuit board defect can cause the AA batteries to leak if the batteries are installed incorrectly.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09019.html>

### HEADLAMPS

9/18/08 ..... 08-403

#### "MYO" & "MYO Belt" Headlamps

*Petzl America*

If the headlamp is used with rechargeable batteries, the cable connecting the battery pack to the lamp can spark, melt or catch fire.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08403.html>

### LIGHTERS

10/23/08 ..... 09-021

#### Gas Match" & "Ready, Aim...Fire" Multi-Purpose Lighters YMCA Trading Inc.

*The lighters fail to meet federal safety standards because they may not contain a child-resistant mechanism.*

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09021.html>

### MATTRESSES

10/28/08 ..... 09-025

#### Serta Zipper-Covered Foam Core Mattresses

*Serta International Mattress Co.*

The mattresses fail to meet the mandatory federal open flame standard for mattresses.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09025.html>

### NOTEBOOK COMPUTERS

9/4/08 ..... 08-392

#### VAIO TZ-series Notebook Computers

*Sony Electronics Inc.*

Irregularly positioned wires can cause a short-circuit & overheating.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08392.html>

### PORTABLE GENERATORS

10/14/08 ..... 09-009

#### Portable Generators

*General Power Products LLC.*

The generator's fuel valve can be damaged by the cover plate during shipment & cause a fuel leak & fuel spillage during use.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09009.html>

### POWER ADAPTERS

10/30/08 ..... 09-033

#### DYMO® LabelWriter® Power Adapters w/Printers

*DYMO*

The power adapters can fail, causing the printer to overheat.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09033.html>

### RC HELICOPTERS

9/10/08 ..... 08-395

#### 'Protocol' Remote-Controlled Mini Helicopters

*Ashley Collection Inc.*

The rechargeable battery can overheat & result in the helicopter's body melting.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08395.html>

### RECHARGING STATION & BATTERIES

10/23/08 ..... 09-024

#### Rechargeable Batteries & Recharging Station for Didj Custom Gaming System LeapFrog Enterprises Inc.

*The rechargeable batteries included with the recharging station can overheat if the gaming system is placed into the base upside down.*

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09024.html>

### TOASTERS

9/30/08 ..... 08-413

#### General Electric Toasters

*Wal-Mart Stores Inc.*

An electrical short-circuit can occur between the heating element & the bread cage.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08413.html>

### TOY BOAT

10/15/08 ..... 09-012

#### Battery Operated Toy "Speed Boats"

*Dollar General Merchandising Inc.*

The 2 battery terminals can come into contact with each other, causing the battery to overheat.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09012.html>

### WALL OVENS

11/18/08 ..... 09-046

#### GE®, GE Profile®, Monogram®, & Kenmore® Wall Ovens

*GE Consumer & Industrial*

The extreme heat used in the self-clean cycle can escape, if the wall oven door is removed & incorrectly re-attached by the installer or the consumer.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09046.html>

### WATER DISPENSERS

8/28/08 ..... 08-379

#### Countertop Water Dispensers

*Greenway Home Products*

The internal heating element could overheat & drop molten metal through ventilation openings in the base onto the countertop. It also poses a shock hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08376.html> ♦





# LICENSING EXAMS

The Office of the State Fire Marshal issues licenses to people and companies engaged in fireworks, blasting, explosives, cannon and mortar firing, special effects, special hazard systems and portable fire extinguishers. Information on applications, exam dates, to obtain new licenses, or to renew existing licenses may be obtained by calling 978-567-3700. Examinations for licenses are held quarterly. Filing deadlines, exam locations, dates and times can be found online at: [http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/license\\_exams.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/license_exams.htm).

All license exams are offered at both Department of Fire Services locations: State Road in Stow, MA and One Prince Street (Northampton State Hospital) in Northampton, MA. Due to construction at DFS Stow, parking is severely limited and may include off-site parking. Please ride-share with co-workers whenever possible.

Applicants must be pre-registered for all license exams, no walk-ins permitted. Completed applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the deadline date listed below. If an

application is received after the applicable deadline, the applicant will not be allowed to sit for the exam.

Directions to our offices are listed on the web at:

[http://www.mass.gov/dfs/about\\_dfs/dfsmap.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/about_dfs/dfsmap.htm)

A list of study materials for each examination are listed on the web at:

[http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/license\\_exams.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/license_exams.htm)

All exams begin promptly at 9:00 a.m.

## 2009 License Examination Schedule

Examinations	Examination Dates	Application Deadlines
Fire Extinguishers	January 28, 2009	January 1, 2009
Cannon/Mortar, Fireworks, Special Effects, Blasting, Blasting R&D	February 25, 2009	February 13, 2009

### STATUS REPORT OF

## Compliance and Enforcement Actions

The following is a status report of recent compliance and enforcement actions taken by the Office of the State Fire Marshal against individuals or companies for violations of MGL Chap. 148 and 527 CMR. The status of the action is provided and notation is made

regarding the effective date of the action. While other actions may be pending, only those individuals or companies who have had administrative hearings with decisions rendered will be documented in this space.

Should there be any question regarding the status of any license or certificate, please call the Office of the State Fire Marshal at any time for verification at 978-567-3700. ♦

### Compliance and Enforcement Actions by the Department of Fire Services

Name	Action Taken	Terms	Ends
<b>Blasting Certificate of Competency</b>			
Christopher M. Keefe	30 day suspension	14 days to serve	10/5/2008
Roy E. Bacon, Jr.	90 day suspension	30 days to serve	2/27/2009
Thomas Marcoux	30 day suspension	7 days to serve	12/22/2008
Wayne E. Martin	2-year suspension	1-yr to serve	7/24/2009
		1-yr. probation	7/24/2010
<b>Fire Equipment Certificate of Competency</b>			
James Tecce	Permanent Revocation	Prohibited from ever again holding a business reg. of any kind from DFS	
<b>Fire Equipment Certificate of Registration</b>			
Intra-City Supply Co.	5-year suspension	1 yr. to serve,	5/23/2008
		4 yrs. probation	5/12/2012

## Recruit Firefighters Graduate State Firefighting Academy

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Director Edmund M. Walker are pleased to announce the graduation of the 182<sup>nd</sup> Class of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's sixty-day Recruit Firefighting Program on December 18, 2008. Coan said, "This rigorous professional training provides our newest firefighters with the basic skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely." The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, a division of the Department of Fire Services, offers this program, tuition-free. The ceremony took place at the Assabet Vocational Regional High School in Marlborough, MA.

### **66 Graduates from 38 Fire Departments**

The 66 graduates, 64 men and 2 women, represent the 38 departments of Acton, Agawam, Amesbury, Auburn, Beverly, Charlton, Cohasset, Danvers, Dennis, Framingham, Hanson, Hingham, Holbrook, Hudson, Kingston, Leominster,

Longmeadow, Lowell, Ludlow, Manchester, Marshfield, Maynard, Medford, Methuen, Northampton, Orleans, Plymouth, Raynham, Scituate, Shrewsbury, Somerset, Southborough, Stoneham, Sutton, Swampscott, Wellesley, Weston, and Wilmington. ♦



Photo by: Bruce Gauvin

### 40 FIRE OFFICERS GRADUATE

## Management Training Program

On December 11, 2008, 40 fire service personnel from 34 communities graduated from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's 13-week Chief Fire Officer Management Training Program at the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute in Shrewsbury.

The curriculum covers a spectrum of topics considered essential for effective management and includes human resource management, group dynamics, leadership and legal issues, governmental and organization structures, information management, customer-focused strategic planning, budgets, commu-

nity awareness, public relations, and labor relations.

Fire officers from the following fire departments graduated in the afternoon ceremony: Barnstable, Bellingham, Belmont, Berkley, Berlin, Centerville-Osterville-Marston Mills, Dighton, Edgartown, Franklin, Hanson, Hingham, Hopkinton, Kingston, Ludlow, Lynn, Lynnfield, Marblehead, Marshfield, Massport, Methuen, Milford, Milton, Northampton, Oak Bluffs, Pembroke, Raynham, Revere, South Hadley District 1, Southbridge, Sudbury, Tewksbury, Turners Falls, Wayland and West Boylston. ♦

### **Correction:**

In the October, 2008 issue of the *All Hands Herald*, information about the graduates from the Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training Program #24 was unintentionally omitted. The class had twenty-four graduates, twenty-two men and two women, representing the four fire departments of: Dunstable, Groton, Townsend and Pepperell. ♦